

# PEABODY CHRONOLOGY

1910-1970

- 1910 Population 15,721 . Cosmopolitan town with 5,347 foreign born representing over 21 nationalities.
- 1910 Peabody Progress newspaper published.
- 1910 Unveiling of bronze tablet in memory of Peabody's first public school teacher-- Mrs. Katherine (Hodges) Daland.
- 1911 Samuel Brown School built for South Peabody.
- 1912 Automobile "Taxi" started trips between Peabody & Salem.
- 1912 Peabody Enterprise newspaper published.
- 1912 Opening of new Strand Theatre.
- 1913 Carroll School erected.
- 1913 Motorizing of fire apparatus began.
- 1913 Electric light plant damaged by fire.
- 1913 200th Anniversary of South Church observed.
- 1915 St. John's Parochial School fire tragedy that took a toll of 21 lives.
- 1915 Population 18,625 Assessed Valuation \$15,120,500.
- 1915 Largest leather manufacturing town in the World. Community House Estab.
- 1915 Second largest town in Massachusetts. Chick Davies Day at Fenway Park.
- 1916 City of Peabody Incorporated on May 8th.
- 1916 Plan B city charter approved by vote of 1,170 to 1,115 on Nov. 7th
- 1916 Samuel Howard Donnell elected first mayor.
- 1917 Pavement of cement streets started. District Court of Peabody estab.
- 1917 Enlargement of electric light plant. Former Pres. Taft speaks at City H.
- 1917 Motorizing of public works equipment.
- 1918 World War One -- 1,062 served, 26 killed, \$3,500,000. sold in war bonds.
- 1918 Influenza epidemic. Jitney Bus Issue. 1,000 women arrested for shimmy dance.
- 1918 Mayor Donnell re-elected for second term.
- 1919 Peabody recognized as World's largest leather producer.
- 91 establishments, employing 8,676, yearly wages of \$10,233,573. and valuation of products of \$52,906,722. which was double of Salem's and half of Lynn's.
- 1919 Mayor Donnell elected District Attorney of Essex County.
- 1920 Large additon to Peabody High, Keefe school built, and Carroll school enlarged.
- 1920 Population 19,552; Assessed Valuation \$20,623,635.
- 1920 William A. Shea elected second mayor.
- 1921 Prohibition Era inaugurated and proves failure in city.
- 1921 First intersectional football game when Peabody High played at Charleston, South Carolina.
- 1921 Big leather strike at A. C. Lawrence Co.
- 1921 St. Joseph Juniorate acquired famous Jacob Rogers estate, now the site of North Shore shopping center.
- 1922 Peabody host to Charleston, S.C. football team and fans.
- 1922 Mayor Shea re-elected to second term.
- 1923 Dedication of St. Joseph Juniorate.
- 1923 Dedication of enlarged Peabody High School.
- 1923 Fire department organized on permanent manpower basis.
- 1924 Peabody Times newspaper published by Page & Goodwin.
- 1924 Alien education program inaugurated.
- 1924 Leo Buckley stadium erected. Klu-Klux-Klan invaded West Peabody.
- 1924 Robert A. Bakeman elected third mayor.
- 1925 Water Commission secured tie up with Ipswich river and relieved water shortage. President Coolidge visit on special train.
- 1926 Grand opening of Salem Country Club in West Peabody.
- 1926 Farnsworth school erected and West school enlarged.
- 1926 Mayor Bakeman re-elected for second term.

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- 1927 Demonstration for Sacco & Vanzetti.
- 1928 J. Leo Sullivan elected fourth mayor, youngest in Peabody's history.
- 1929 Valuation of manufactured products \$40,809,695.
- 1930 Population 21,345; Assessed Valuation \$23,729,900.
- 1930 Carroll and Brown schools enlarged.
- 1930 Depression hits hard and Peabody Unemployment Relief Committee forms
- 1930 Mayor Sullivan re-elected for second term.
- 1930 Eastman Kodak Co. acquired American Glue Co. plant.
- 1931 J.B. Thomas hospital enlarged.
- 1932 Civillian Works Authority inaugurated for repairs to city buildings.
- 1932 Mayor Sullivan becomes first three term mayor of Peabody.
- 1932 Andur-Limon factory destroyed by fire and Limon later convicted of a
- 1933 Big leather strike which brought about recognition of leather worker union.
- 1934 James E. McVann fifth mayor, elected in primary election.
- 1935 Public works projects on roads and N.Y. A. projects for unemployed.
- 1936 Elks flag day observance and large parade.
- 1936 Yankee Division highway (Route 128) under construction through city.
- 1936 Mayor McVann re-elected by only 58 votes in close city election.
- 1937 Zoning ordinance adopted by city council.
- 1937 City hall annex erected under W.P.A.
- 1937 L.B. Southwick large factory torn down.
- 1938 Peabody High wins Eastern Mass. football championship, and also Class football title.
- 1938 Bingham survey of all city departments for taxpayers league due to high tax rate.
- 1938 Joseph B. O'Keefe elected sixth mayor.
- 1939 Industrial Statistics : 83 establishments; 6,728 employed, valuation of products \$38,023,891.
- 1939 Retail Trade : 329 stores, Sales \$8,360,000.
- 1939 J.B. Thomas hospital closed in financial battle between mayor & Trustees.
- 1939 Diamond Kid factory taken over by city to prevent tearing down.
- 1939 to 1940 Large W.P.A., State and city projects on roads, schools, sidewalks, water and sewer main extensions.
- 1940 New Peabody post office dedicated.
- 1940 Peabody High won Class B football championship.
- 1940 Mayor O'Keefe only re-elected by 8 votes in closest city election.
- Only one vote separated him and Rep. John E. Murphy in first counting of ballots.
- 1941 25th Anniversary of city celebration.
- 1941 Referendum petition against school teachers wage increases.
- 1941 -1945 World War Two in which over 3,000 served and 85 were killed.
- 1942 Mayor O'Keefe re-elected for third term which was for 3 years due to changing of elections to odd numbered years.
- 1943 Mayor's hospital bill defeated by voters.
- 1943 Hospital controversy ended as mayor and trustees adopted financing arrangement, used prior to 1931.
- 1943 Second school teachers referendum ended in compromise when teachers accepted salary survey committee recommendations.
- 1944 Peabody High was Class A and Eastern Mass. football championships.
- 1944 City laborefs strike.
- 1944 Vocational Trade school erected.
- 1945 Peabody celebrated end of World War Two.
- 1945 Leo F. McGrath elected seventh mayor.



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- 1946 Electric light committee recommended new Diesel operated plant.
- 1946 Large scale housing developments started.
- 1947 City government appropriated \$1,100,000. for new light plant.
- 1947 City battled State on removal of gravel in West Peabody for Logan airport.
- 1947 Newburyport turnpike (U.S. Route One) made into a 6 lane highway.
- 1947 Mayor McGrath re-elected for second term.
- 1948 Town Line shopping center proposed for West Peabody with Filene's as principle store.
- 1949 Town Line shopping center issue placed on ballot in city election and won by 7 to 1 majority.
- 1949 New \$1,218,000. municipal electric light plant dedicated.
- 1949 New South school constructed and additions to Brown and Keefe schools.
- 1949 Mayor McGrath re-elected to third term.
- 1950 Population 22,647; Assessed Valuation \$25,880,475.
- 1950 Industrial Statistics: 113 firms employing 6,376; with wages totaling \$19,257,000., and a valuation of products of \$89,261,101.
- 1950 First State veterans housing project dedicated.
- 1951 St. Thomas parochial school dedicated.
- 1951 Total of 1,460 homes erected in Peabody from 1946 - 1951.
- 1951 Philip C. O'Donnell elected eighth mayor.
- 1952 Electric light commission established by voters.
- 1952 Peabody Industrial Commission established by act of State Legislature.
- 1952 Center School destroyed by fire.
- 1953 Explosion and fire of American Polymer Corp. takes one life and injures 30.
- 1953 New Center school under construction.
- 1953 Mayor O'Donnell re-elected for second term.
- 1954 City Council votes to sell City Infirmary property to Cabot, Cabot, & Forbes for industrial development.
- X 1954 Worst flood in history of Peabody. Federal and State aid granted.
- 1954 Jordan Marsh & Allied Stores of New York announce plans of \$10,000,000 shopping center at St. Joseph Juniorate property.
- 1954 New Kiley school for West Peabody voted by city government.
- 1955 St. Joseph Juniorate property rezoned ~~by~~ for business for North Shore shopping center. Filene and Stop & Shop later join center.
- 1955 Population 26,723 Assessed valuation \$33,441,300.
- 1955 Mayor O'Donnell re-elected for third term.
- 1956 City appropriated \$1,100,000. for rehabilitation of water works.
- 1957 Addition to South school, and rehabilitation of Wallis and Peabody High schools.
- 1957 Large state highway project launched to serve new shopping center traffic. in which 30 to 35 homes were removed.
- 1957 State Old Age housing unit dedicated.
- 1957 Mayor O'Donnell becomes first four term mayor in close city election.
- 1958 Northshore shopping center dedicated by Governor Furcolo and other dignitaries with 50,000 people in attendance.
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- 1958 Off street parking lots in Peabody square approved by city council.
- 1959 City votes funds for West Memorial School in West Peabody.
- 1959 Retail Trade Statistics reveal that Peabody led the State in growth from 1948 to 1958. Sales totaled \$46,670,000. for a 246% gain.
- 1959 Mayor O'Donnell re-elected for fifth term to again break tradition of city.
- 1959 Bishop Fenwick Parochial High School dedicated by Cardinal Cushing and other dignitaries.



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- 1960 Population 32,202 for 42% gain since 1950.
- 1961 Million dollar addition to J.B. Thomas Hospital with aid of federal funds.
- 1961 New fire stations and equipment in South and West Peabody.
- 1961 Edward T. Meaney elected ninth mayor.
- 1962 Industrial Development Commission appointed.
- 1963 Peabody becomes retail center of North Shore with sales reported of \$ over \$79,000,000. by U.S. Census. More than 4,000 employed in retail firms of city by 1966.
- 1963 Large scale apartment developments underway.
- 1963 Mayor Meaney re-elected to second term.
- 1964 Northshore shopping center enlarged.
- 1964 Ten room addition to Center school.
- 1965 Population 41,781 for increase of nearly 10,000 since 1950.
- 1965 Peabody now fourth largest city in Essex County.
- 1965 Peabody Industrial Park dedicated.
- 1965 Dedication of John E. Burke school.
- 1965 Large sewer program with 11 miles of mains installed.
- 1965 Mayor Meaney re-elected for third term.
- 1966 Peabody Municipal Light Plant enlarged.
- 1966 Renovation of J.B. Thomas Hospital into new continuous care unit.
- 1966 Dedication of John F. Kennedy Memorial Junior High school.
- 1966 Dedication of Peabody Senior High and Vocational school.
- 1966 Eight Day Golden Jubilee Celebration of city.
- 1967 20,000 fans cheer Red Sox Manager Dick Williams in Peabody Square.
- 1967 Revaluation of property in Peabody ordered by court.
- 1967 New ward boundaries established for equal representation of voters.
- 1967 Portable ~~xxx~~ classrooms acquired to aid large school enrollment.
- 1967 Nicholas Mavroules elected tenth mayor, and first of Greek ancestry.
- 1968 Peabody Centennial Year.
- 1968 Court okays new shopping center for West Peabody.
- 1968-1969 Andover St. (Rte. 114) Zoning issue.
- 1969 McCarthy Memorial School dedicated
- 1969 Peabody Veterans Memorial High School in West Peabody approved at cost of \$12,600,000. by city council.
- 1969 Mayor Mavroules re-elected by largest plurality.
- 1969 Peabody Snowbound and thousands stranded.
- 1969 Peabody High School State Class A Football Champions.
- 1970 \$4,000,000. Federal & City Water Program to provide new water supply.
- 1970 New Gas Turbine Peaking Engine for Electric power demand at cost of \$1,500,000.
- 1970 Centennial Industrial Park. Urban Renewal, & M.B.T.A. Issues.
- 1970 Population ~~47,650~~ 48,080 for increase of 15,448 since 1960. Peabody now 3rd largest city in Essex County. ↑ Increase represented a 49.3% gain in past decade. ~~15,448~~ 18,878
- 1970 Number of Housing Units 14,340 for a 44.7% increase in past decade.
- 1970 Retail Sales = \$108,000,000.; 265 firms employing 4,332 workers.
- 1970 Assessed Valuation (100%) = \$302,313,738. Tax Rate = \$39.60

